

WELCOME!

National Youth Court Center

Youth Court Implementation Training Seminar

Sponsored by:

OJJDP & NHTSA



Youth Courts: A National Perspective



General Definition

A program in which youth are sentenced by their peers.

Respondents: 11-17 years old

Volunteers: 13-18 years old



What Makes Youth Courts Appealing?

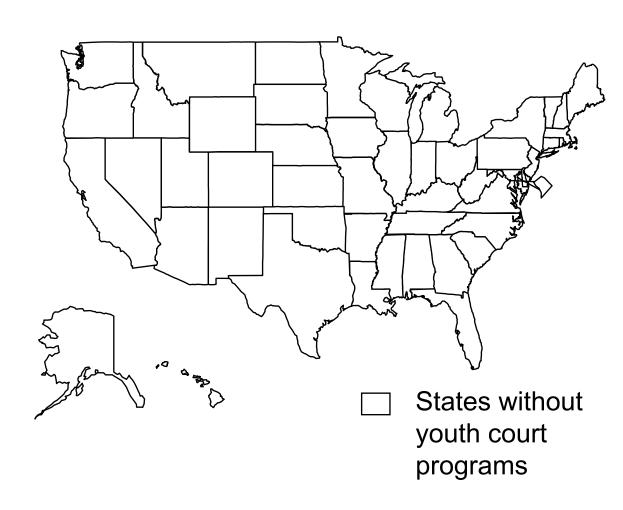
- Serves as a prevention and early intervention program
- Offers a way to hold juvenile offenders accountable
- Provides a means for educating youth on the legal and judicial system
- Provide a meaningful forum for youth to build competencies and practice and enhance skills
- Offers an avenue for youth to provide service for and build ties to their communities



Location of Youth Courts Nationally

1994: 78 Youth Court Programs

2003: 900 Youth Court Programs





Location of Youth Courts Locally

- Juvenile Justice System-Based
 - Courts
 - Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Juvenile Probation Departments
- Community-Based
 - Private Non Profit Organizations
- School-Based
 - Self Contained
 - As Partners with Community or Justice System-Based

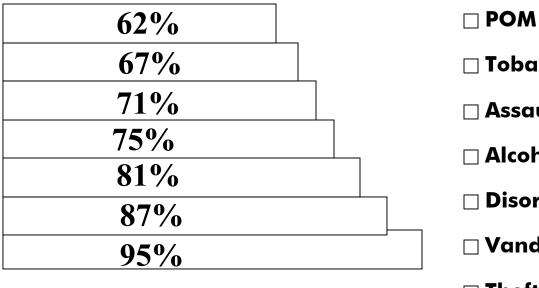


Common Elements

- Diversion programs
- First-time offenders
- Misdemeanor, non-violent cases
- Require youth to admit to charge
- Voluntary participation
- Parental consent/participation mandatory



Types of Offenses



□ Tobacco

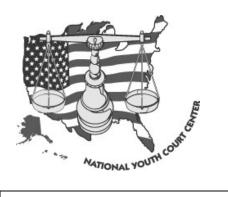
Assault

☐ Alcohol

□ Disorderly Conduct

□ Vandalism

☐ Theft



Types of Offenses





Common Sentencing Options

- Community Service
- Oral/Written Apologies
- Essays
- Jury Duty
- Educational Workshops



Additional Sentencing Options

- Restitution
- Alcohol/Drug Assessment
- Curfew
- Tutoring
- Victim Awareness Class or Panel
- Drug Testing
- Peer Mediation



Adult Judge Model

- Youth volunteers serve in the roles of:
 - Defense Attorneys
 - Prosecuting Attorneys
 - Clerks
 - Bailiffs
 - Jurors
- Adult volunteer serves in the role of:
 - Judge



Youth Judge Model

- Youth volunteers serve in the role of:
 - Judge
 - Prosecuting Attorneys
 - Defense Attorneys
 - Clerks
 - Bailiffs
 - Jurors



Youth Tribunal Model

- Youth volunteers serve in the roles of:
 - Judge(s)
 - Defense Attorneys
 - Prosecuting Attorneys
 - Clerks
 - Bailiffs
- There is NO PEER JURY



Peer Jury Model

- Adult or youth volunteer serves in the role of judge or monitor
- Youth volunteers serve as jurors and question the defendant directly
- Some programs use youth advocates



Help youth courts build their capacity by:

- Serving as an information clearinghouse
 - Maintain comprehensive database
 - Collect program information on youth courts
 - Answer more than ... requests via email, phone and written correspondence



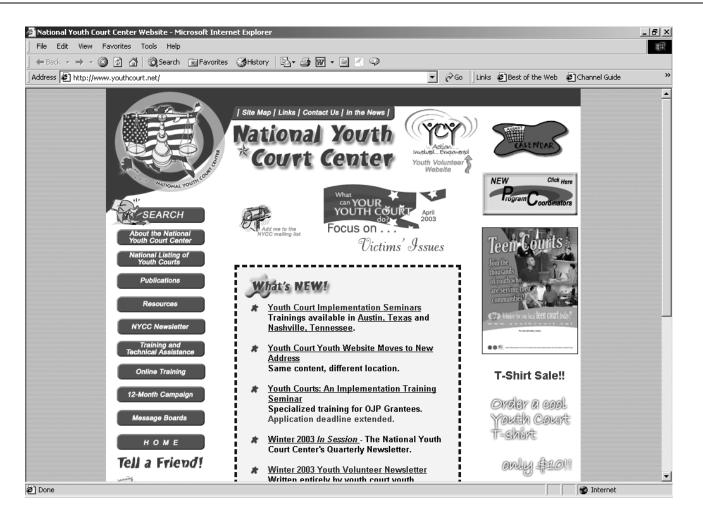
- Providing training and technical assistance
 - Conferences
 - Regional training seminars
 - Limited onsite technical assistance
 - Workshops



- Developing resources including:
 - Peer Justice and Youth Empowerment: An Implementation Guide for Teen Court Programs
 - National Youth Court Guidelines
 - In Session (newsletter)
 - Getting the Most Out of the Deliberation
 Process Video/Online Lesson
 - Role of Restorative Justice in Teen Courts
 Bulletin
 - 12-Month Campaign Calendars

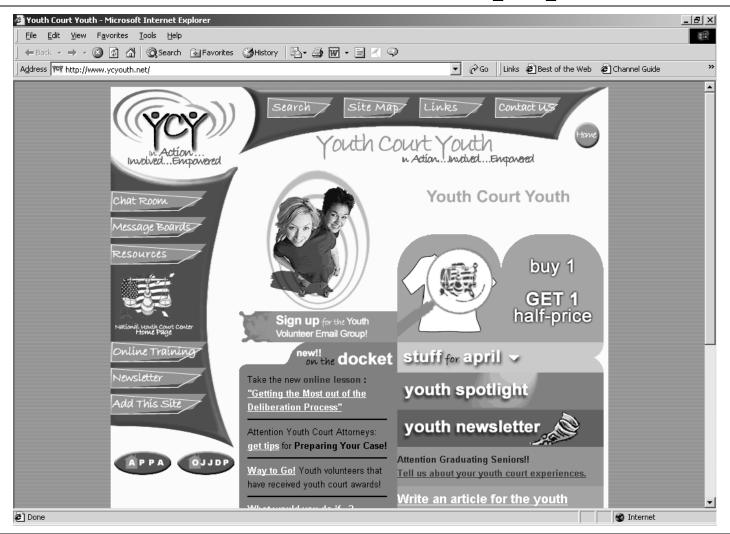


Main NYCC Website www.youthcourt.net





Youth Court Youth Website www.ycyouth.net





- Providing resources through our allied agencies:
 - Youth Volunteer Training Package (ABA)
 - Street Law for Youth Courts: Educational Workshops (Street Law, Inc.)
 - Giving Back: A Community Service Learning Manual for Youth Courts (CRFC/CRF)
 - Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice (ABA)



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c/o American Probation & Parole

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